



Transmitted Via Electronic Mail & Federal Express

February 17, 2017

Ms. Eugenia Naranjo
Remedial Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 156, Newark Bay Study Area

Dear Ms. Naranjo:

Submitted herewith are two (2) copies of Monthly Progress Report No. 156 for work performed during January 2017 at the Newark Bay Study Area. This progress report has been prepared pursuant to Section X, Paragraph 71 of the Administrative Order on Consent between U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Occidental Chemical Corporation, Index No. CERCLA 02-2004-2010.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (757) 282-6462.

Sincerely,

Tierra Solutions, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Firstenberg", is written over the printed name.

Clifford Firstenberg
Facility Coordinator
On behalf of Occidental Chemical Corporation
(as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company)

Enclosures (2 copies sent)

Cc: Bureau of Case Management
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Site Remediation Program 401-05F
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Attn: Jay Nickerson

Chief, New Jersey Superfund Branch
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attn: Amelia Wagner, Diamond Alkali Site Attorney – Newark Bay Study Area

Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc.
5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 110
Houston, TX 77046
Attn: Juan Somoano

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WORK PERIOD: January 2017

A. Actions Taken Toward Achieving Compliance with the Order

1. On January 5, Tierra submitted Protocol Modification Forms (PMFs) 3, 5, 6, and 7.
2. On January 5, Tierra submitted responses to EPA's comments (dated November 29, 2016) on the Fish Data Report (dated September 21, 2016).
3. On January 6, USEPA informed Tierra of an oversight in the December 2016 project schedule; all other USEPA comments having been satisfactorily incorporated.
4. On January 18, USEPA provided comments on PMF 5 and approved PMF 7.
5. On January 23, USEPA provided a clarifying comment and an additional comment/request on the Fish Data Report resulting from its backcheck of the response-to-comments submitted on January 5.
6. On January 24, Tierra submitted an updated version of the Newark Bay RI/FS schedule.
7. On January 31, Tierra informed USEPA that the analytical laboratories were having difficulties with matrix interferences while analyzing the Phase III Sediment Investigation samples.
8. On January 31, Tierra submitted the field report for the Newark Bay Study Area Phase III Sediment Investigation (Rev 0).
9. Tierra continued work on the RAGS tables: 2, 3, 5, and 6.

B. Actual or Potential Violations and Other Problems Encountered

1. None

C. Corrective Actions

1. None

D. Validated Sampling or Testing Results Received or Generated During the Course of Implementing the Work

1. Data validation reports were received for SDGs NB370 through NB375 (revisions may be pending as the noted matrix interferences are addressed).

E. Future Plans, Actions and Data Scheduled for February and March 2017

1. Tierra will review any additional USEPA comments on Tierra's Response-to-Comments documents submitted for the Environmental Sample Collection Report and Crab/Clam Data Report submitted on October 24.
2. Tierra will review any USEPA comments on the "Summary of Preliminary Receptors, Exposure Factors, and Toxicity Reference Values Selection for the Newark Bay Study Area Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment" submitted to USEPA on November 30, 2016.
3. Tierra will review any USEPA comments on the "Approach to Conducting the Sediment Quality Triad Assessment for the Newark Bay Study Area" submitted to USEPA on November 14, 2016.
4. Tierra will review any USEPA comments on the RAGS Part D Tables 1 and 4 submitted to USEPA on November 17, 2016.
5. Tierra will review any USEPA comments on the draft Feasibility Study Work Plan submitted to USEPA on December 20, 2016.
6. Tierra will continue to work with the analytical laboratories to resolve matrix interference issues.

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7. The current schedule anticipated Tierra's receipt of the Cooperating Parties Group hydrodynamic and sediment transport models for review on January 9, 2017. Based on USEPA's November 14, 2016 letter regarding a change in approach to the NBSA modeling, Tierra will coordinate with USEPA on a revised plan and schedule for the modeling.

F. Work Completion Estimates

1. The implementation of NBSA RIWP-Rev. 1, September 2005 is 100% complete through November 2006.
2. The implementation of NBSA Phase II RIWP, Rev. 2, Amendment 1, November 2007 is 100% complete through November 2014.

G. Delays Encountered or Anticipated and Mitigation Actions

1. None